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Filing date: **04/03/2018**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91237315
Party	Plaintiff American Marriage Ministries
Correspondence Address	Nancy V. Stephens Foster Pepper PLLC 1111 3rd Avenue Suite 3000 Seattle, WA 98101 UNITED STATES Email: nancy.stephens@foster.com
Submission	Other Motions/Papers
Filer's Name	Nancy V. Stephens
Filer's email	nancy.stephens@foster.com
Signature	/Nancy V. Stephens/
Date	04/03/2018
Attachments	Declaration of Nancy Stephens Opposition to Motion for Partial SJ.pdf(8618 bytes ) Exhibit A to Declaration of Nancy Stephens Part 1.pdf(3684224 bytes ) Exhibit A to Declaration of Nancy Stephens Part 2.pdf(4345374 bytes ) Exhibit A to Declaration of Nancy Stephens Part 3.pdf(3335247 bytes )

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

AMERICAN MARRIAGE MINISTRIES	)	Opposition No. 91237315
	)	
Opposer,	)	Mark: GET ORDAINED
	)	Application No. 87430729
v.	)	
	)	
UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH	)	
MONASTERY STOREHOUSE, INC.,	)	
	)	Filed: October 18, 2017
Applicant.	)	
	)	

**DECLARATION OF NANCY V. STEPHENS**

I, Nancy V. Stephens, am a member of Foster Pepper PLLC and counsel for Opposer American Marriage Ministries in this action. I make the following statements based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify, I could and would testify competently about the matters stated herein:

1. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a listing of competitor businesses posting on social media using the phrase “get ordained.”

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

/Nancy V. Stephens/ WSBA No. 31510  
Foster Pepper PLLC  
Attorneys for Opposer  
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 3000  
Seattle, WA 98101-3299  
206-447-4400

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of DECLARATION OF NANCY V. STEPHENS was served by email on the attorney for Applicant listed below on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2018, at the following email address(es):

trademarks@mateskylaw.com, mike@mateskylaw.com

/Renee R. Stewart/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Renee R. Stewart

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📌 My Math Lab

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🏠 Home

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get ordained

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Every Day in theaters 2/23.  
Promoted by Every Day

Shaun White  
Shaun White and Scotty James set up intense halfpipe final 🔥

#BachelorWinterGames  
6,833 Tweets

#SDLive  
19.8K Tweets

#InternetFriendsDay  
58.5K Tweets

#SOTC2018  
1,108 Tweets

Steven Adams  
2,894 Tweets

#ANTM  
5,035 Tweets


Tristan Thompson  
1,268 Tweets

Eric Staal

amm  
AMERICAN MARRIAGE MINISTRIE

The AMM @theamm2009 · Feb 8

We had the opportunity to chat about online ordination with the fine folks at Good News-A Podcast. Check it out! [goodnewsapodcast.com](#)  
#GoodNews #podcasts #onlineordination #getordained #free




Home  
goodnewsapodcast.com

💬

↺↻

❤️

||



Open Ministry @openministry · 14 Nov 2017


How to **Get Ordained** to Perform a Wedding!  
Full Article:  
[oministry.com/services/how-t...](#)  
  
#ordained #openministry #getordained #minister

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Dylan Bruce ✓ @DylanBruce · 18 Sep 2017


.@YulVazquez I think I just figured out your new side hustle. #MidnightTexas #getordained

💬 2

↺↻ 11

❤️ 67

✉



ThePlaidZebra @The\_PlaidZebra · 4 Jun 2017

I got legally #ordained as a priest in 5 mi [theplaidzebra.com/i-got-legally-...](#)  
#getordained #howtogetordainedasapriest #internet

I got legally ordained as a priest in 5 minutes





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## The "Un"-official Officiant

Leave a reply



It is **beyond** popular right now to ask an uncle or a dear friend to officiate your wedding. Which is SO special and intimate. What a great honor for them... and a HUGE responsibility. There are a million articles out there about how to ask that person to do it, how to **get ordained**, what the flow of the ceremony should be, what words to choose, etc. It's mind-boggling. I am a tried-and-true believer that you should hire PROFESSIONALS to work at your wedding instead of relying on a family members & friends – they are, after all, special enough to be on the A-List that made the cut to be invited to the Big Day, right? However, this is one role that I totally “get” as being an exception to the rule. However, that person needs to:

- Be an experienced public speaker
- Enjoy being in front of a group
- Be willing to give up sitting and enjoying the ceremony because s/he'll be in the middle of it
- Take the role seriously (this is NOT the time to be a jokster. Humor is good but isn't an opportunity to roast the Bride & Groom)
- Research this role and what s/he wants to say



There are several options when it comes to who is allowed to officiate a wedding including:

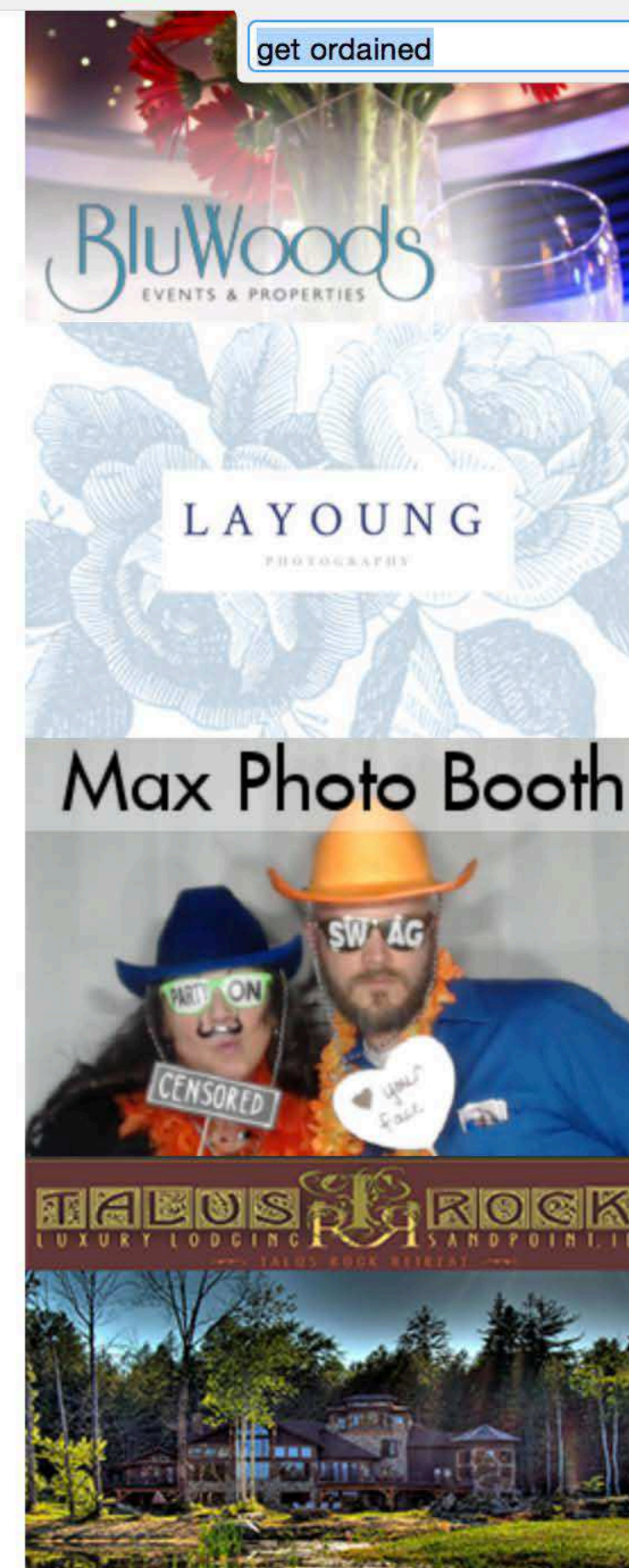
- **Justice of the Peace.** You can call the Spokane county clerks office (where you get your marriage license) and ask for a list of local Justices of the Peace who are able to perform weddings.
- **Court House.** If you'd like to get married at the [Spokane courthouse](#), you simply call and schedule an appointment and bring two witnesses. You can schedule your wedding as soon as three days after you get your marriage license.
- **Religious Ceremonies.** Obviously, if you belong to or attend a local church, you should be entitled to have the pastor or priest (or elder) conduct your marriage ceremony. Many will do weddings held outside their church building too. This should be your first call!
- **Ordained friend or relative.** If you'd like to take a more personal approach, then you might like having a friend or family member conduct your ceremony. Almost anyone can [get ordained](#), and fairly quickly too.

If none of the above options work for you, here is a (rather hodgepodge) list of some Spokane officiants who will do non-denominational/civil ceremonies and who will travel. These are just ones I've come across in my research, I'm hoping you all might have some more to add too!

Ricki Zipkin. [Serendipity](#). SerendipitySpokane@gmail.com +1 509-701-8147

Ceremonial Bliss. (509) 701-6305.

Gary Weber. [A Day to Remember](#). (509) 999-9677







What details from your wedding that made it unique to you?

The major detail in our wedding that made it unique to us was that we had his father marry us. We did not want to have just anybody marry us, so we asked his father to **get ordained**. It made our wedding that much more special to us; to be married by him solidified our families joining and the love we all now share.

Other than marrying your husband, what was your favorite moment from your wedding day?

My favorite moment would have to be getting ready with my girls before the wedding. The whole morning was spent talking and laughing and just enjoying each other's company. It kept my mind off the wedding and I was able to relax and enjoy myself.







get ordained 1/1 ^ v x

## 8. Ordain A Friend

The typical cost of hiring an officiant can range from \$150 - \$300 or more. Instead of spending a few hundred bucks to hire a random person who you've only had about an hour of face time with, you can have a friend **get ordained** as an officiant online for FREE! Check out the [American Marriage Ministries](#) for more information.



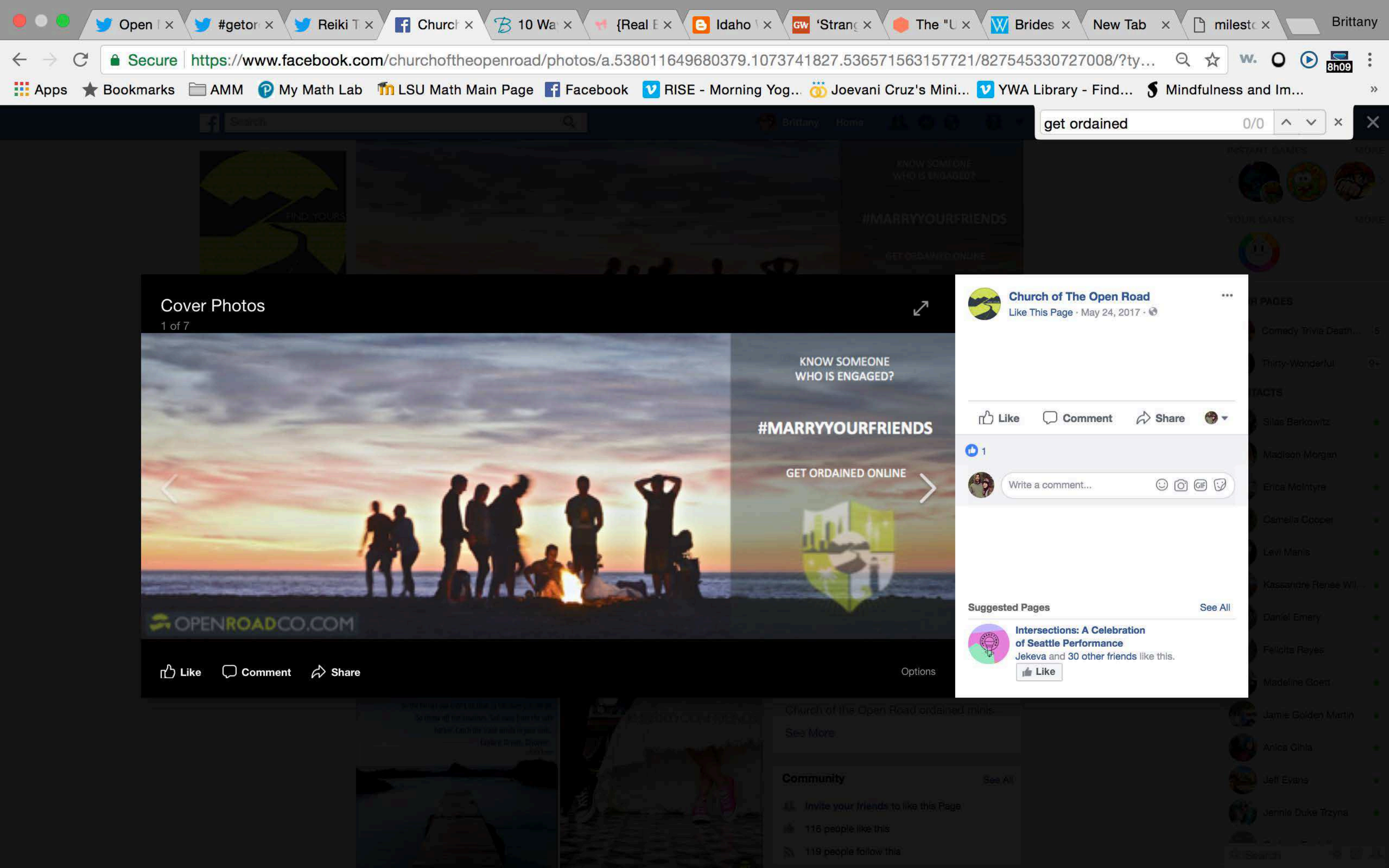




# How To Get Ordained To Perform A Wedding Legally — Because This Is One Thing You Don't Want To Mess Up









Sometimes we get lost in the party planning aspect of a wedding. There’s so much to cover – from choosing a venue to renting the right furniture – of course the logistics take a lot of attention. But no one in the “wedding business” wants planning to get in the way of a bride and groom enjoying their big day.

In the midst of wedding planning, it’s important to remember that no matter how much fun the party is going to be, the ceremony is the reason it’s all happening which is why you want to do it right and put ample amount of time into selecting the perfect person.

An officiant of a civil ceremony can be a member of a religious organization, but does not have to be. He or she is simply the person legally recognized by the state to lead and validate a wedding ceremony. Their technical legal responsibilities are quite straightforward: **get ordained**, get the bride and groom to exchange I do’s, and file the marriage license; the details and specifications are up to you!

**First things first, know the difference between a minister and officiant.**

A Minister, Reverend, Pastor, Preacher, Rector, Priest etc. is an ordained professional and has the education and credentials from a specific denomination. Their credentials come from a seminary, church or ecclesiastical college. Most have had a church where they performed all the duties of a trusted spiritual leader. Along with this title comes the respect they are due for the education the experience they possess. And this translates into someone who can help you create the ceremony that is right for you. An officiant is usually someone who has completed a course of study from an online company or college in the art of performing a wedding. There are schools that train wedding officiants with very good curriculums to back up the title and these pros will do a lovely job of presiding over your wedding. This is ok if they are honest about it and tell you up front that they are not a Minister or call themselves Reverend.

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- ★ Electra Cruises Hosts Make-A-Wish Foundation Christmas Party
- ★ 11 Tips for Creating a Wedding Budget and Choosing Affordable Wedding Venues
- ★ 8 Wedding Compromises So That Your Destination Wedding That Much More Special
- ★ 8 Questions to Ask Yourself When Planning a Wedding (And How a Wedding Planner Can Assist You)
- ★ 6 Common Wedding Reception and Ceremony Fears (and How You Can Master the Situation Should They Happen)

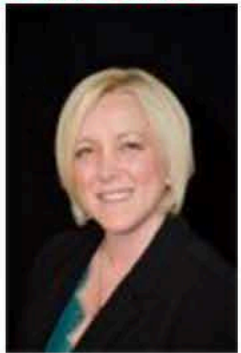
## Categories

Select Category





Officiants



Donna Mount, Ordained Minister  
Managing Member, From This Day Forward LLC  
Moorestown, NJ  
Tel: (609) 271-7174  
E-Mail: [donnamount@fromthisdayforward.net](mailto:donnamount@fromthisdayforward.net)

My names is Donna Mount and I am the owner and managing member for From This Day Forward. I currently live in Moorestown, NJ with my husband Matthew and our 7 year old twin daughters Arianna and Zoe. I have been performing weddings for over ten years and have a genuine passion for what I do. I enjoy getting to know every couple we marry and being able to share in their special day.

As the former mayor of my town, one of my duties was to perform wedding ceremonies. I enjoyed doing this so much that when my term expired in 2009, I decided to **get ordained** and continue this joyous service.

I will help create a one of a kind ceremony that will allow the couple to combine their traditions and values in a way that is unique to them. Each wedding I perform has a personal meaning. Every couple I marry is special to me. As an officiant I am able to celebrate with the couple as they begin their life-long commitment to one another. I genuinely care about the couple I am marrying and believe that shows in my personality and my work ethics.









That is fantastic! There is nothing more personal for a wedding ceremony than a friend or relative that you have known most of life performing your ceremony. Let's discuss the pros and cons to this gift.

Pros to a Friend or Relative Performing the Ceremony

1. Personal, history, and comfort level. This person knows you both really well and that makes it so easy to create a ceremony together. They know the history of you and your fiancé and speak about this in the ceremony. You have a real comfort level with this person and that will make the ceremony easier.
2. Free of charge. Hopefully they are providing this as a gift, but if there are any expenses that they are incurring, etiquette says that you must reimburse them or pay for these items.

Cons to a Friend or Relative Performing the Ceremony

1. Are they legal to perform ceremonies in your state. So they decided to fill out that little form online and maybe even paid \$20 to **get ordained**. Many states, counties and towns will not recognize these forms of ordination.
2. Creating the ceremony. There is an incredible knowledge and ability to an official officiant with the wording of a ceremony. What you are paying for with a professional is the writing talent. A good officiant can write a ceremony that guests want to listen to and are eager for the next part.
3. Crossing the lines. When you hire a professional officiant, they work for you and your fiancé. You have the ability to say to them what you want them to wear, what to arrive and what you want them to say and not. Friends and relatives are not professionals (unless if they do this job professionally).

What are your options:

1. Hire a professional to perform your ceremony
2. You decided to have a friend or relative perform the ceremony anyways. Hudson Valley Ceremonies has a solution. The **Friend Officiates Package**. One of our legal officiants comes to your venue before or after the ceremony and takes care of the legal paperwork. That's it! So simple.



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idahoweddingsdoneyourway.blogspot.com

{Real Bride Series} Meet Ashley! - Babydoll Weddings

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Joevani Cruz's Mini...

YWA Library - Find...

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for a legal ceremony (minus the legal paperwork).

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### 3. Affirmation of Love Ceremony (COMMITMENT CEREMONY).

This is not a legal ceremony, however it is one that is recognized by you, your partner, and your God. I recognize that people have different needs. There are many reasons why two people may be unable to marry legally; sometimes for financial or social reasons beyond your control. This is a way for a couple to commit to each other and to bond together in a way only those in love can do, to share their dreams and cares and journey through life together as partners in life. I will do everything I do for a legal ceremony (minus the legal paperwork).

### Most commonly asked questions

#### Why did I **get ordained** and how do I know if my ordination is legal if I did it online?

My son was getting married and we weren't sure if we were going to have someone available to perform the wedding. Just in case I went online and got ordained. If you are wondering if my ordination is legal in Idaho - so was I...I went into the Vital Statistics office to find out exactly what is required to legally perform a wedding. Because my ordination allows me to do weddings, funerals, and baptisms it is legal in the state of Idaho. FYI, it is also legal in Oregon.

#### How many weddings have you performed?

I have performed well over 250 weddings, probably closer to 300 now.

#### How much do I charge?

I work on a base fee then donations after that. My fees START



# Go online, get ordained

With a few mouse clicks, everyday people can become ordained ministers and officiate at weddings.

JEFF KORBELIK/Lincoln Journal Star Jan 18, 2008 (0)



Mary Kay Wood officiates at the wedding of Matthew and Jennifer Landis after going online to become ordained. (Courtesy photo)

Courtesy Photo





PROPOSAL STORIES REAL WEDDINGS ASK AN EXPERT VENDOR SPOTLIGHT ADVICE DIY HOW-TO



PREVIOUS STOF

NEXT STORY

CEREMONY, TIPS AND TRICKS

# How to Get Ordained Online in 6 Easy Steps





*your ceremony. Some questions to ask a prospective officiant include:*

*who are you ordained by;*

*is it legal for you to perform marriages in my State; and*

*do you have back-up available in case something happens to you on our Wedding Day.*

*How do you find an officiant in your area? There are several ways: Craigslist, WeddingWire.com, TheKnot.com, Gigsalad.com, Thumbtack.com. You can also simply perform a Google search for "Officiant" and your location.*

*Some couples choose a friend or family member to **get ordained** to perform the ceremony. While this works out in a lot of cases, why leave anything to chance? By hiring a professional, you're securing the most important part of the day—actually getting married. An officiant performs in front of the public all the time and they know how to make your ceremony shine. So leave the officiating to a professional and let your friends and family simply enjoy the day.*

*Your officiant will, hopefully, meet in person with you and your partner to get to know you and begin creating your wedding ceremony. They will likely have questions for you about you met your partner, how long you've been together and, perhaps, your favorite thing about your partner.*

get ordained

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**How did you come about being a wedding officiant?**

“ I began officiating weddings as a notary public in 2009. I would perform nuptials by request and primarily worked by references of friends. In 2009, I made the choice to make it a go full time. I decided that if I was going to be praying with couples, giving advice and blessing the marriages that I was officiating, I would need to study marriage and **get ordained**. In 2010, I became an Ordained Non- Denominational Christian Minister. In 2012, I became a trained facilitator for Prepare- Enrich Relationship Building (Pre- Marriage Counseling).





JNB818

Posted: Jun 19, 2011 11:58 AM



Re: Flowers Cost?? Officiant cost???

Thanks for the feedback, for some reason I thought the average price was around 300...but by what you are saying I guess \$500 is not so bad.

Regarding flowers a friend told me I can look to spend around 1,000 to 2,000 😞

[Reply](#) | [Quote](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Report](#)

NYtherapist

Posted: Jun 19, 2011 12:04 PM



Re: Flowers Cost?? Officiant cost???

Officiants who are not affiliated with religious organizations may charge less. I never looked at them, so I don't know. If we weren't using officiants connected to our faiths, we would have had a friend or family member **get ordained** online (that's what most of the ones who advertise on here did). There are lots of LIW brides using the officiants who advertise here, so they may be more helpful in terms of what you should expect to pay.

1-2k for flowers is about right. Costs vary quite a bit. Make sure you see local florists and not just the wedding florists who are popular here. Local florists charge significantly less most of the time.

[Reply](#) | [Quote](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Report](#)

IrishAli

Posted: Jun 19, 2011 12:17 PM



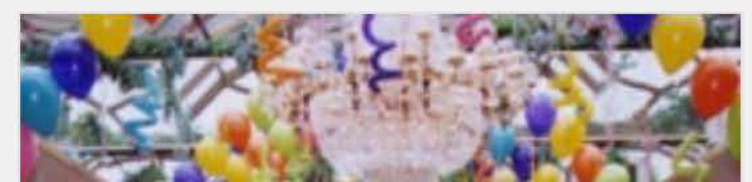
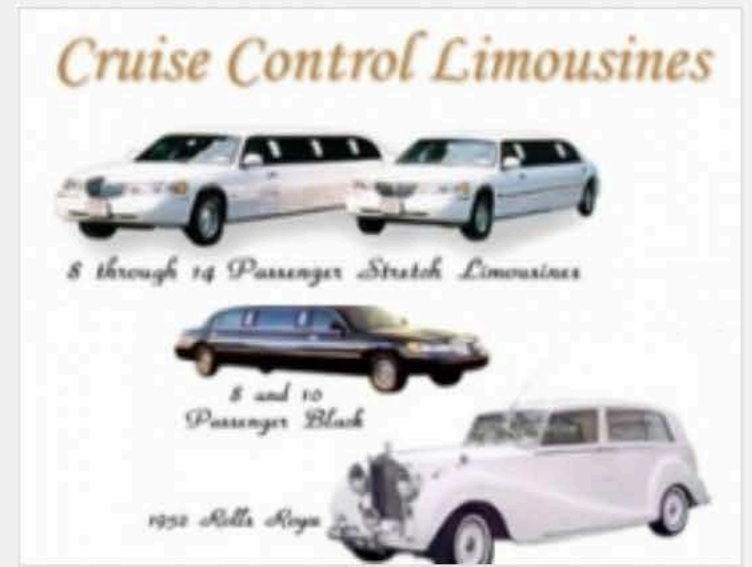
Re: Flowers Cost?? Officiant cost???

For flowers, it depends what you want and how many

Hgh or low centerpieces? 10 or 20 centerpieces?

Ours is around \$1100, but we have 11 tables and no bridal party ( other than MOH and BM)

get ordained 1/1 ^ v x





- \* Wedding parties remain very popular, with 99% saying they have bridal attendants and 98% groomsmen/ushers.
- \* The average bridesmaids' dress costs \$133.
- \*The average number of bridal attendants is 5.3.
- \*The average number of groomsmen/ushers is 5.1.
- \* Flowers girls are part of the wedding party 63% of the time, while 57% of all wedding parties feature a ring bearer.
- \* Pets are included in the ceremony at 8% of weddings.
- \* Brides are opting to be less matchy-matchy when it comes to their bridesmaids; 66% of brides choose a color and let their bridesmaids choose the dress style, and only 33% match in both color and style (down from 38% in 2014).

WEDDING AND RECEPTION

- \* September and October have become the most popular months for weddings, accounting for 32% of all weddings.
- \* 63% of brides are having their ceremony and reception at the same place and same time, up from 56% in 2014.
- \* A quarter of couples choose to marry in a house of worship (down from 35% in 2014).
- \* When selecting their officiant, 28% of engaged couples ask a friend/family member to **get ordained** to marry them (up from 20% in 2014).
- \* Almost all couples incorporate wedding traditions into their big day, including cake cutting (90%), the first dance (89%), toasts (83%), and "something old, new, borrowed, and blue" accessories (81%).
- \* Before their wedding ceremony, 62% of brides choose not to see their groom (down from 67% in 2006).
- \* For their wedding ceremony, 48% of couples opt for traditional wedding vows (down from 53% in 2014).
- \* 85% are planning to take their fiancé's name when they get married.

Methodology

Respondents were women ages 18+, either engaged or married within the year. The sample included women who have joined/registered on the Brides.com site and opted in to receive internal promotions and/or surveys, and women who read or subscribe to BRIDES who are active and promotable. Respondents were surveyed between March 22 and April 4, 2016.

About BRIDES

In over 80 years of publication, BRIDES, published by Condé Nast, has remained the most widely read magazine in the category and the country's foremost authority on engagement, weddings, and marriage. BRIDES is a bimonthly publication that reaches over five million readers. Brides.com is a leading resource for engaged women, with original content, image galleries, and more. BRIDES is available digitally for the iPad and seven-inch tablets. BRIDES stationery lines with Michaels craft stores and Checkerboard Fine Papers are available online and in retail stores across the country. For more information on BRIDES, please visit [Brides.com](http://Brides.com)



lawyer cannot legally marry you. They need to get permission from a judge to do that. A wedding officiant is definitely cheaper!

If you are getting married in Marion County and want a judge to marry you, it will have to be outside of regular business hours. They simply do not marry couples in the City County building anymore. Hamilton County is a little quieter and the magistrate does regularly marry couples who obtain their marriage license in Hamilton County. Every now and then, I'll get a call from a couple because the magistrate is unavailable.

If you belong to a church you can have the pastor marry you but you will often have to go through counseling and classes in order to fulfill the requirements of the faith in order to be married in the church. If you need to get married immediately or do not meet the many requirements of certain religions you will need to find another option.

The easiest way to make your wedding official is to hire a professional wedding officiant. Most of the professional wedding officiants in Indianapolis are ordained ministers. It is true, anyone can **get ordained** online and officiate your marriage. However, getting married is entering into a legal contract. You are signing a legal document and taking on the privileges and responsibilities of marriage. Marriage can get you a Green Card, it can get you health insurance and it can also get you half. Half of everything you own together - including your debts and other responsibilities. If you have any questions with the paperwork, hire a professional - if only for the peace of mind that if anything goes wrong with professional wedding officiant will be able to provide you the simple solutions to fix the problem

I've been marrying couples in Indiana for over 8 years. I know the people in the clerk's office. I've de can come up. Sometimes papers get lost in the mail, or the forms don't get filed correctly, I know how because I've fixed them and I know exactly who to call to get the correct answers if anything should a should not take chances with. Your marriage documents are one of them.

If you have questions or need someone to marry you, either in a big wedding or just sign your marriage it legal, I'm happy to help! Please call me: **(317)403-7379**

get ordained 1/1

Prison Weddings

Part 1


Prison Weddings

Part 2

We are getting married because... reasons couples sign the license

How to approach hiring a wedding officiant

Powered by vCita



## Let's Talk!

Thanks for stopping by! We're here to help, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Schedule Now



## 4. MAKE YOUR OWN CENTERPIECES.

With so many [cool artsy ideas online](#), if you plan ahead, you can make your own beautiful centerpieces that have a unique charm that's all your own. Some florists charge hundreds of dollars for centerpieces so you can save a lot if you make your own. [CAVEAT: Have someone else set them up for you. The last thing you need is to be running around dressing tables when you should be dressing yourself. This is a great job for a mother-in-law.] (*Wedding Shoestring Budget Guide savings: \$800*)

[NEED HELP PLANNING? CONTACT US TO GET FREE ADVICE FROM OUR PLANNERS.](#)

## 5. HAVE A FRIEND OFFICIATE.

Asking someone who is important to you and your future-spouse to lead the ceremony is both meaningful and budget-savvy. Your special someone will feel he or she had a significant role in your big day, and you can save money on this line item. Make sure to ask someone who is comfortable speaking in front of a crowd and a great sense of humor never hurt. They can [get ordained as a minister online](#). (*Wedding Shoestring Budget Guide savings: \$650*)

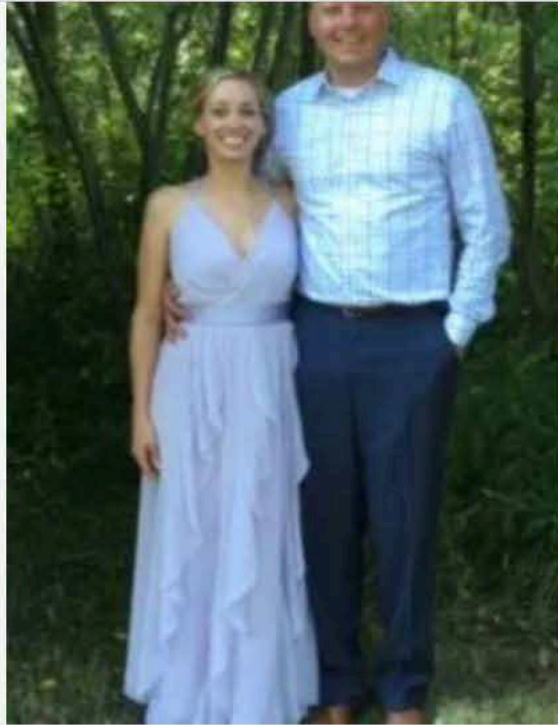
## 6. USE YOUR VENUE'S ECONOMY OF SCALE.

Ask your venue to make the initial contact with their approved vendors to get you the best deal. They service dozens of weddings a year, and have relationships with vendors at rates you could never negotiate as a single event customer. Wedding planners also have relationships like these – leverage them to save you money. (*Wedding Shoestring Budget Guide savings: \$500*)

## 7. NEGOTIATE, NEGOTIATE, NEGOTIATE.

Everything in life is negotiable. Screw your courage to the sticking place, and tell your vendors what they can do to win your business. You are the customer and you can usually be getting a better deal. You know you got a good deal if both parties walk away feeling screwed. So get out there and negotiate a price that works for your budget. (*Wedding Shoestring Budget Guide savings: \$500*)





### Referring To???

Sometimes I wonder if I think conducting a wedding is more important than it is. Haven't we all been so close to something and we make assumptions of its importance when it doesn't mean much at all? Ordination certainly fits into that category these days given rock stars and TV celebrities are doing weddings for fans and family more often than not.

When I talk with new brides or grooms, there's times I get the feeling the ceremony that makes their relationship legal and official is no big deal to them. This especially comes across when they say they have a friend who is a public speaker and she or he has decided to **get ordained** so they can conduct the wedding ceremony.

### A Couple's Assumption

There's an assumption that the chosen friend or family member is comfortable fitting into the role of being an officiant. Like it or not, a role is being played when anyone, including me, takes on the responsibility of being an officiant. I'm expected (as much by myself as anyone) to know what I'm doing, why I'm doing it, and be able to do it well.

### My Assumption

I make this assumption: Given the fact that a person has to be ordained rather than simply licensed to officiate carries a spiritual tone to it. And my assumption includes whether the participants acknowledge this concept or not. I'm not talking about being religious, with dogma and history and followers attached to a

Ceremony Options

get ordained1/1

### SEARCH

Search...

### COUPLES CHOICE 2018



### COUPLES CHOICE 2017



### COUPLES CHOICE 2016





# So Your Friend Has Asked You To Officiate

## Part I

 July 27, 2015  Wedding Blogger

Officiating a wedding for the first time is nerve-racking to say the least. Unless you're a country clerk or a religious minister, then it's highly likely you've had no training whatsoever. I can say from personal experience that it's a bit flooring. Suddenly it's time to **get ordained** and start preparing. No pressure, right?

Like anything, all it takes is time and practice. But first things first, you need to **get ordained**,

These days, it seems like anyone who took an elective in Theology can get a certificate of Ordination. But what's truly important is that whatever religion or personal philosophy that you practice, make sure that it falls in line with what the couple want. As long as the vows or scripture doesn't offend you, it's the couples' show. Make no mistake: you serve at their pleasure. Perhaps the biggest pit fall an inexperienced officiant can fall onto is thinking that the wedding is about them.

- Get your ordination as early as possible. It can take time for the county clerk to officially recognize your ordination. You don't want to be under the gun making sure you can legally marry your friends.
- The easiest and most recognizable place to **get ordained** is the Universal Life Church. The ULC is dedicated to celebrating the beauty of marriage no matter the background of the applicant.
- Print out a copy of your certificate of ordination (or better, have an official one mailed to you) and make copies.

# Naninas In The Park

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your wedding officiant? A friend or family member instead of a stranger? It's an appealing thought in a lot of cases, especially if you're living the **secular life**. This post is meant to be shared with **your chosen pal** so they can find out how to become a wedding officiant, and and where to **get ordained**.

# How to become wedding officiant: the legal stuff

First, make sure it is legal. Call the registrar in the township where you will be getting married to see what needs to be done by your officiant to ensure that they can legally do the deed. This not only varies by country and state, but can also vary by municipality within the state. Just because someone is an internet-ordained minister does not automatically let them perform marriage ceremonies everywhere



friend officiate... This is a notion that is near and dear to my own heart because that's how I got started as a professional officiant. My best... [Read more](#)

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Thanks to our sponsor **American Marriage Ministries** for presenting this post on Offbeat Bride. They make it easy to **get ordained** so you or a friend can officiate weddings...



ABOUT



Hey, I'm **Ariel**, Seattle-based author of a book called *Offbeat Bride: Creative Alternatives for Independent Brides*. This blog is the ongoing celebration of couples who dare to walk off the beaten aisle.

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### How to become a wedding officiant: online churches to get ordained ...

Feb 9, 2017 ... Costs and timeframes to get approved vary by each site. How to become a wedding officiant: online churches to get ordained And your officiant can actually DRESS like The Dude with this Big Lebowski Sweater from Camp Kitschy Knits. Make your first stop the state's official website of where you want to get ...


offbeatbride.com/how-to-become-a-wedding-officiant/



### How to have a friend officiate your California wedding (...legally!)

Dec 1, 2011 ... I recently set about researching the requirements for having a family member officiate a wedding ceremony in California. Here's the crazy weird thing. There are two options: You can get your family member deputized for a day for a cost of \$120. You can get him ordained online for free and then he can ...


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### So you want to have a friend officiate... | Offbeat Bride

Feb 4, 2013 ... Call the registrar in the township where you will be getting married to see what needs to be done by your officiant to ensure that they can legally solemnize your marriage. This not only varies by state, but can also vary by municipality within the state. Just because someone is an internet ordained minister ...


offbeatbride.com/friend-officiant/



### Become a minister the Stephen Colbert way (on the toilet!?) | Offbeat ...

Feb 28, 2017 ... American Marriage Ministries is an online ordination service that is a federally recognized 501c3 charitable organization. It's free and only takes up to five minutes(!) to apply and get approved. It never expires. And, best of all, anyone can become an ordained minister as long as you agree with their three ...

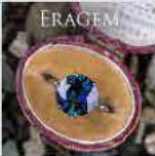
offbeatbride.com/become-a-minister-with-american-marriage-ministries/



### A non-traditional, non-religious, non-boring wedding ceremony ...

Feb 11, 2015 ... They make it easy to get ordained so you or a friend can officiate weddings... Photo by Keith Lee Mallory and her partner Katie saying their vows. All photos in this post by Keith Lee. I scoured the interwebs to find pieces to make up our personalized wedding ceremony that was non-traditional, non-religious, ...


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### officiant | Offbeat Bride

How to become a wedding officiant: online churches to get ordained. Are you looking to have a familiar face as your wedding officiant? A friend or family member instead of a stranger? It's an appealing thought in a lot of cases, especially if you're living the secular life. This post is meant to be shared with your chosen pal so ...

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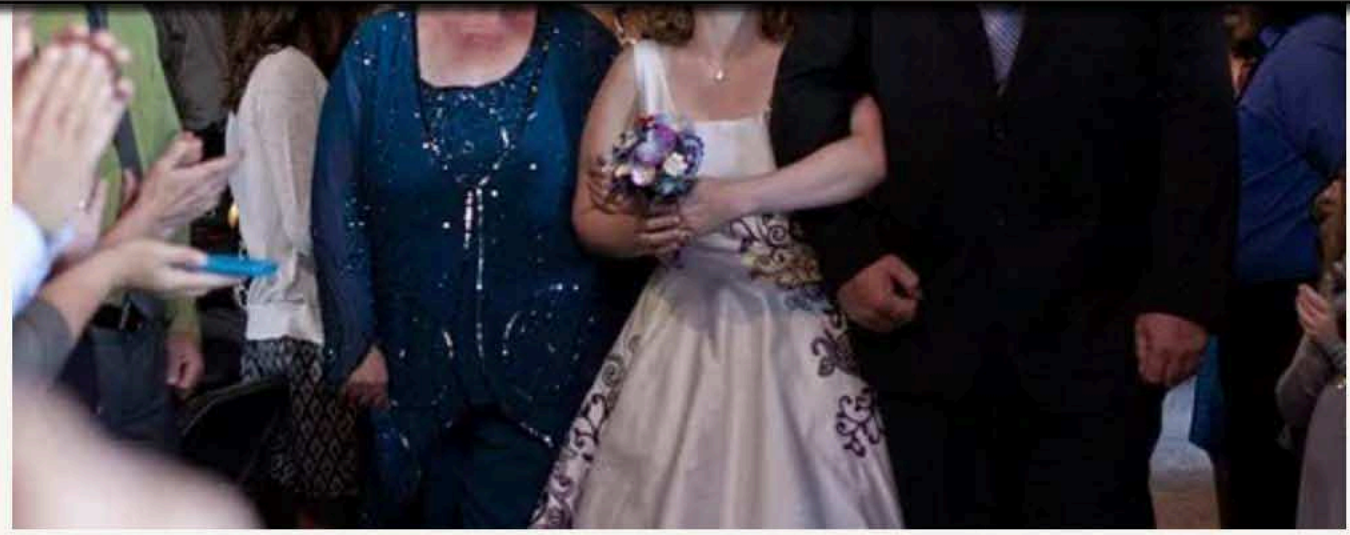


### Ashley & Eric's Wedding in a Bar | Offbeat Bride

Jan 10, 2013 ... In a moment of drunken genius at a party months before the wedding, we paid for our friend TJ to get ordained online so he could officiate. Beforehand, we shared our vision and preferences with him, and let him do his own thing as far as what he would say. We had no idea what he would talk about during ...

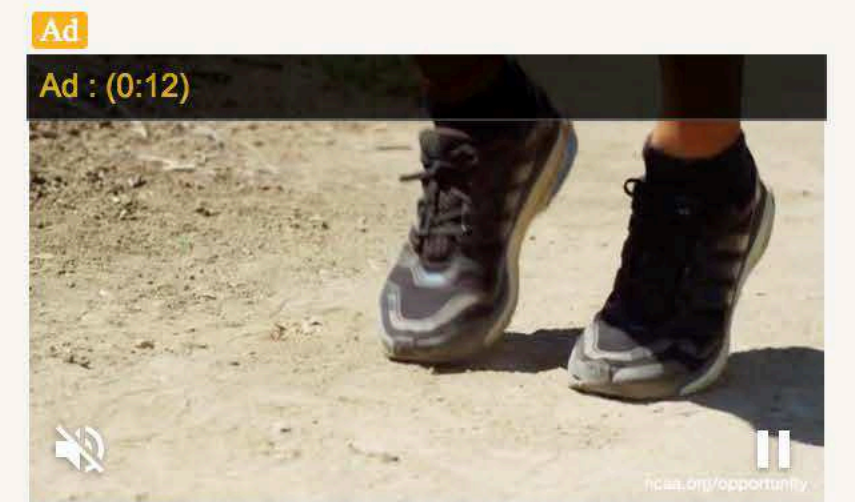
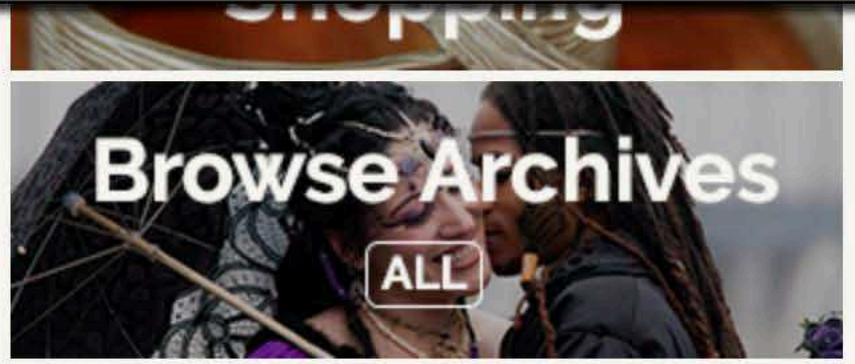
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In a moment of drunken genius at a party months before the wedding, we paid for our friend TJ to **get ordained** online so he could officiate. Beforehand, we shared our vision and preferences with him, and let him do his own thing as far as what he would say. We had no idea what he would talk about during the ceremony — it was a complete surprise! It was funny, involved hilarious and obscure nerdy references, veered into **Comedy Central Roast** territory for a few terrifying moments, and was cute without being cloying. Best lines:

*"You belong together like **Bill & Ted**, **Wayne & Garth**, **Batman & Robin**. May your lifelong partnership be filled with success and joy, especially if it involves the two of you fighting together in a zombie takeover, nuclear wasteland, or other post-apocalyptic scenario."*













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@openministry

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Venice, California

[oministry.com](http://oministry.com)

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**Open Ministry** @openministry · 14 Nov 2017

How to **Get Ordained** to Perform a Wedding!  
Full Article:  
[oministry.com/services/how-t...](http://oministry.com/services/how-t...)


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- Cut the guest list! Do those college acquaintances really need to come to your special day? Go through the list with a fine tooth comb and don't feel bad about not inviting people who aren't that close to you or your family. This is your day!
- Cut flowers at church. Many churches are already decorative with stained glass windows and the altar. And, don't forget, less is more!
- Have guests RSVP on your wedding website instead of on a reply card. Save tons of paper and postage!
- Ask a family or friend to marry you! If they are willing to **get ordained**, it will save you money and can give you a more personalized ceremony!
- When shopping around for venues, don't tell them it's a wedding! "If you don't mention the word 'wedding' the price is often 25 - 35% cheaper." says Alan Fields, co-author of *Bridal Bargains: Secrets to Planning a Fancy Wedding on a Realistic Budget*.
- Consider moving your wedding day from Saturday to Friday! "We moved our wedding to a Friday (originally planned for Saturday) and saved a few thousand dollars by doing so." — Kim Ruba White, Facebook

get ordained 1/1 ^ v x

## Pink Cloud Commercial!

March 25, 2015 ...

## Wedding Wire Badge Earned!

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## Pink Cloud goes to Brazil!

November 26, 2014 ...

## Tag Cloud

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your big day:

What possibilities are there for the wedding ceremony itself?

In Marriage Equality states, the possibilities vary greatly. If a same-sex couple is able to find a willing church and clergy member, the couple will be limited by the liturgy of that church. Some choices may be available, but that is probably about it.

If a couple has a family member or friend **get ordained** on the internet if they hire an independent officiant, the possibilities are only limited by the Officiant's knowledge of and ability to research wedding possibilities.

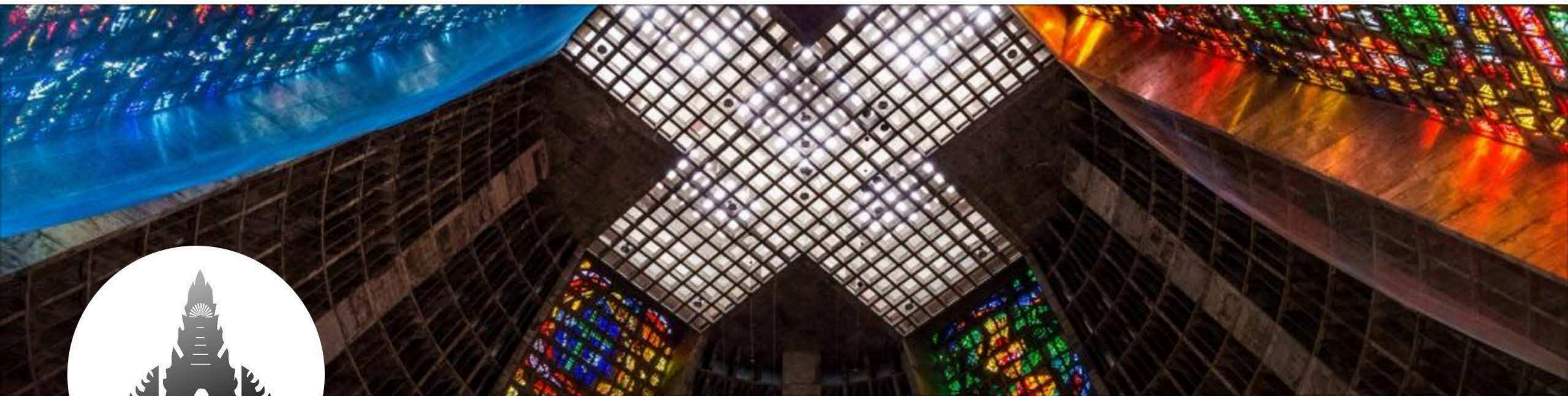
Obviously, professionally trained and experienced Officiants will have much more to offer the couple in terms of ideas and possibilities.

One thing to watch: there are legal requirements which need to be addressed by the officiant. In some states, the couple just needs to sign the marriage license to be married but in many states, the couple first needs to declare their voluntary and conscious decision to enter the marriage. This is what we know as the "I Do's" – "Do you take this man or woman to be your husband or wife?" It doesn't need to be those words but the question or questions ask must show that each member of the couple is there willingly and is capable of making a legal decision. The second requirement is for the officiant to pronounce them married.

Blog Topics

- Atlanta LGBT Wedding Photographers
- Austin Gay & Lesbian Wedding Venues
- Australia Same Sex Wedding Vendors
- Brighton Wedding Venues | LGBT Weddings
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

## My name is Chaplain Patrick and I'm terrible at blogging.

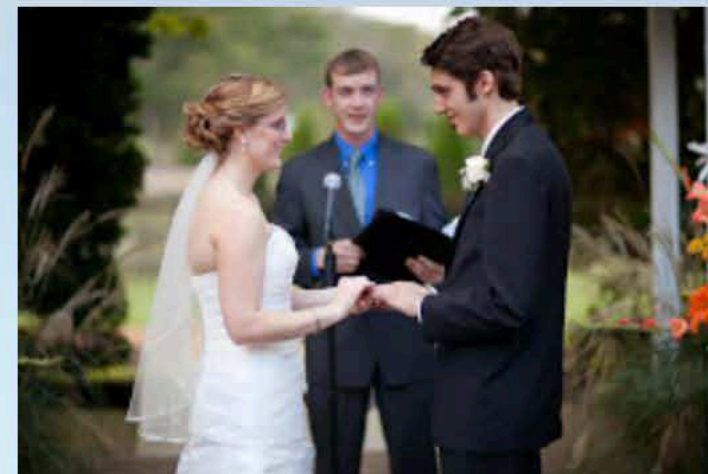
I started this blog months and months ago. I was full of ideas. Then life and wedding season happened. So, tell me what you'd like to see in this blog. I'll do my best to make it happen.

Posted by Chaplain Patrick at [5:51 PM](#)

No comments:



## WEDDING OFFICIANTS



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It's the day that you've dreamed about for as long as you can remember. What type of ceremony will it take to make your dreams come true? Let's make that happen! We will customize a ceremony that is based on your ideas and wishes. We will always keep the focus on you. Our promise is to offer you the absolute best ceremony and attention to detail without breaking the bank. Please take a peek at our website for very detailed information about our services. We look forward to hearing from you! If you have questions, please feel free to ask! We love weddings and we're happy to help.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014

## Friend or Professional?

*"Dear Chaplain Patrick, I have been asked by my friend to **get ordained** so that I can officiate her wedding. I was wondering if you have any tips or advice? I basically have no idea what I'm doing, so I figured I'd reach out to a pro!"*





# Asking a Friend or Family Member to Officiate Your Ceremony? Start Here

Here's everything you need to know about helping a friend or family member **get ordained** to officiate your wedding.

by The Knot



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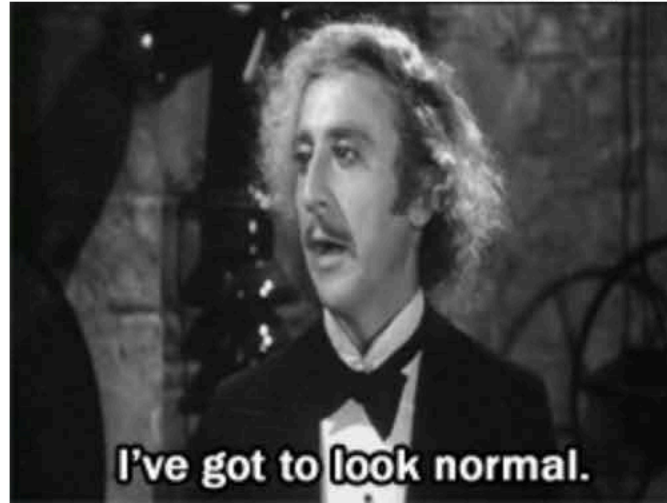
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member  
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Report Reply



KLee17



member

July 2014

@April192002 if you're having a hard time finding someone you like, what about asking a close friend or family member to **get ordained** and perform the ceremony? It would be a very memorable service and a great way to honor someone close to you.

Report Reply



April192002



member

July 2014

@KLee17 FI is totally against that for some crazy, odd reason. Actually, we don't really have a close friend or family member who'd we be totally thrilled to perform the ceremony. I keep talking about cost and mentioning my dad, and he's actually not 100% opposed to that anymore (down to about 90%), but he wants to keep looking. Most of the time he's just says whatever or you decide...why can't he just be like that about my dad! 😊

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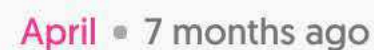
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14 Comments



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Q

Post # 13



JenniferG

6 years ago


Wedding: July 2012

I looked up Justices of the Peace online and tried to find reviews, and just picked one. We met him, and he seemed fine and had a nice voice, so we went ahead and booked.

👍 Helpful (0)

↩ Reply

Post # 14



UpstateCait

6 years ago


Wedding: October 2011

Like some of the PP's, we had a loved one **get ordained** to marry us and it was one of the best things we did. There's nothing like having someone you love marry you. The alternative was to pick some random schmuck out of the phone book and that didn't appeal to me at all. Why would I want to pay some stranger \$300 to pronounce us husband and wife with zero emotion behind it when my cousin could **get ordained** for free and be emotionally vested into the whole thing? She got choked up a few times but it just added to the whole feel of the ceremony. She was super nervous but she kicked ass and EVERYONE the fact that we were married by a family member. If it's legal where you're from and you have someone in mind, do it! Trust me, you won't regret it.

👍 Helpful (0)

↩ Reply

Post # 15



organizedbride11

6 years ago

Wedding: November 2011

My grandparents were florists for 43 years before they retired and every sat we would

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wedding registry

CREATE A REGISTRY



It is absolutely critical that you understand all of the local marriage license laws that you are planning to operate as a wedding officiant. Performing a wedding ceremony as an unauthorized officiant is illegal in some jurisdictions, even carrying the possibility of prison time for offenders. For example, the penalty for “celebrating a marriage without a license” in the Commonwealth of Virginia is punishable by a fine of no more than \$500 and no more than one year in jail (Code of Virginia § 20-28). In addition to penalties for the officiant, marriages performed by unauthorized officiants in some states may be deemed invalid by the local court – in which case, marriages performed by that officiant would not be legally recognized by the state and the couples they performed ceremonies for would not be legally married. Because of these potential issues, it is always in your best interests to do your due diligence in researching your local marriage license laws.

## Get Ordained

While it is possible (and even easy) in some jurisdictions to perform legal marriages without ordination by a religious organization, we highly recommend getting ordained if you are planning on becoming a professional wedding officiant. Religious ordination gives you the most possible options for performing the rite of marriage in different states and counties, and eliminates many of the headaches of obtaining legal authorization to perform marriages in states where the marriage laws are particularly tough. Under Oklahoma law, for example, the only persons who may obtain the required pre-authorization to perform a legal marriage are judges and ordained clergy (Oklahoma Code §43-7) and there are no provisions under Oklahoma state law for any other persons to obtain authorization.

The benefits of religious ordination for wedding officiants are twofold – one, it is easiest to obtain legal authorization to perform marriages in any jurisdiction by using religious ordination credentials and, two, it





Beginner  
August 2018

## How to get ordained online

Jenna, on Jan 14, 2018 at 12:58 PM  
Posted in Wedding Ceremony

14

Reply

I'm having a very hard time finding someone we know to marry us and I don't want to hire a stranger to marry us. What do we need to do to have a family member marry you?

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Sarah Online · on Jan 14, 2018 at 1:01 PM

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How to Become an Ordained

Brittany

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Community Q&A

If I were to **get ordained** online, could I claim tax exemption?

wikiHow Contributor

No. The tax exemption is for religious organizations. Being or becoming ordained could allow you to start a religious organization but until that actually happens, there is no tax exemption. Bear in mind that the organization is what goes tax free, your personal income probably won't be.

Not Helpful 11

Helpful 29

You stated that an ordained minister can perform gay weddings. Isn't that against God concerning homosexuality?

L

Laura Stubbs

There are multiple denominations available, some having more or less inclusive beliefs than others. If you want to perform gay marriages and are comfortable with the practice, then you can choose one of the more flexible denominations. If you would prefer not to perform gay marriages, then you can choose one of the more strict denominations that better fits your own belief system. Either way though, no matter what you choose, you would never be forced to perform a marriage against your will. If you believe that a particular marriage is against God, then simply don't perform that marriage and allow the couple to seek a minister elsewhere.

Not Helpful 0

Helpful 4

Will New York acknowledge the status of an ordained online minister?

wikiHow Contributor

Yes, New York is one of 39 states that accepts online ordinations.

Not Helpful 3

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Beginner

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## Reliable online places to get ordained

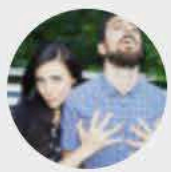
MandJ0526, on Feb 5, 2017 at 5:00 PM  
Posted in Planning

9

Reply

My FH and I are looking to get our close friend ordained so that he can perform our ceremony legally. I've found a few online, but I can't tell between the fishy sites and the legit sites! Has anyone used a website/company that they can vouch for or recommend from others experiences? We will pay for his certification, but we don't want to spend a whole lot. Thanks!!

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9 COMMENTS

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Beginner  
May 2017

## Getting ordained

Katie, on Jan 7, 2017 at 9:47 PM  
Posted in **Planning**

18

Reply

I've asked my best friend to be the officiant at our wedding. Does anyone know of a legitimate online source for him to **get ordained**?

Thanks!

Share:



Respond to this discussion

18 COMMENTS

Saturday

*Jul 14, 2018*

1334 couples are getting married on the same day, in the same place as you. Find out more!



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### GROUPS



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Do It Yourself





MY NAME IS MICHELLE SNYDER AND I BECAME AN ORDAINED MINISTER IN APRIL OF 2007.

I'm a supporter of all who love each other and want to be married. Straight, gay, interracial, intercultural, everyone! All are entitled to their day of beauty.

This is how it all started: A couple of my friends in Buffalo, NY decided that they were ready to spend the rest of their lives together. They took the time to choose the date, the location, the dress, the flowers, the cake and a million other things. There was one thing that bothered them though. The most important part of the wedding, the officiant who would be sharing that moment with them, seemed out of their hands. They didn't want to just pick someone who was looking to cash in on their day. We talked about this together and I tried to think of a solution with them. They beat me to it. They asked me to **get ordained** and officiate for them. They thought that since I was a theatre major I would be a great speaker in front of the crowd and since I was a librarian, I would have access to literature that could help capture how they felt about each other. That was all the convincing it took for me to become a minister! It was an honor, and it was the most beautiful day. Since then I have performed weddings for many different couples, some I've known and some I only met a short time before their wedding. I've been lucky enough to work in large halls, small bars, and even some family rooms. I meet with every couple first and get to know them so that it's not just a generic ceremony...

IT'S YOURS. AS IT SHOULD BE. ALWAYS, ALL WAYS.

*And now meet YellowBird's newest addition!*

